

Honolulu Star-Bulletin

Letters OR TIMELY TOPICS

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EDITOR

THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 1915.

Allah is with the patient, if they know how to wait.—Arab Proverb.

JAPAN AND THE WAR IN EUROPE.

The statement of a Russian imperial official in Honolulu yesterday that Russia will not carry Japanese troops over the single-line trans-Siberian railroad puts a new light on the matter of sending half a million of the Nipponese soldiers to the European arena.

In Japan such public sentiment as has appeared in the press seems to be in favor of Japan's participation in the European war. Thus the Tokio Nippon recently commented that it is a source of great satisfaction to the paper to hear of influential foreign statesmen upholding the advisability of Japan assisting the allied troops at the European front to quicken a complete German defeat; for it shows that the efficiency of Japanese soldiers is being greatly appreciated. But as a practical question it is one to be solemnly considered from various points of view, this paper continued. It involves several important issues and the paper emphatically condemns the flippant way in which the matter is talked about among a certain section of politicians and journalists. Recently a public meeting was held at which several speakers advocated a Japanese expedition to Europe. By a curious coincidence the speakers are those who are in favor of the two division problem. It would be, concludes the paper, a heinous offense if the question of a Japanese expedition to Europe were used as a tool in the interest of the two-division problem.

Recent developments in the European fighting have tended to delay the time when the Allies are likely to call on Japan. Russia's now well-established victory over the Austrians in Galicia, the check administered to Germany at the Bzura river, and the advances of the French right wing into Alsace, are sufficient to give the Allied commanders confidence in the essential validity of their plan of campaign. Japan is not likely to be called upon, in any event, unless the big forward movement of the Allies on the west, probably scheduled for early spring, is blocked by the Teutons.

From the statement of the Russian official referred to, Demetrius Magula, of the Imperial Mint, it would appear that Russia is keeping the trans-Siberian railroad busy with the movement of her own troops. It would cost a huge sum to finance the Japanese movement and it will be undertaken only in time of pressing need.

STAND FIRM.

A salary-raising bee by the new board of supervisors will be absolutely inexcusable. The Star-Bulletin hopes the members of the board will resist the influences being brought to bear, resist the pressure of heads of departments, resist the demands of employees. This paper hopes it will not be necessary to chronicle any weakening on the part of those pledged to economize the tax-payers' money.

The city is now carrying a heavy burden of "overhead" or fixed charges that include wages and salaries. A larger proportion of its income spent for permanent improvements and a smaller proportion on wages and salaries that in many cases are only half-earned will give the tax-payers the sort of satisfaction that will be expressed in votes two years from now.

THE BOOZEMAKERS' DODGE.

The big brewing interests in the northwest states that recently voted "dry" are already trying to twist the law so that the will of the people will be defeated.

Up in Washington, long the home of powerful brewing companies, a plan has been devised that gives hope to the booze-sellers. One of the leading brewers has filed with the secretary of state a copy of a liquor bill he intends to submit to the state legislature by petition, to be voted on at a special election next November.

The bill would permit the operation of breweries and authorize the sale of their products; would allow hotels with more than fifty rooms, in incorporated cities, to sell liquor to their guests and to serve the same in their dining rooms, restaurants and cafes and would authorize the public, for home consumption, to buy not less than twelve quarts nor more than 48 quarts of alcoholic beverages. The breweries are to be located in incorporated cities. Annual license fee, under control of city authorities, is fixed at \$200 for breweries, \$1000 for hotels

and \$300 for selling agents and breweries.

The beverages included under the law are spirituous, fermented and malt liquors. Hotels, breweries or agents who violate this law are subject to gross misdemeanor, the penalty for which is to be \$2000 fine or six months' imprisonment, and employees of such places or persons subject to misdemeanor penalty of \$100. Bars are prohibited under law, and also sale to minors or to persons for use of minors.

The proposed law is to go into operation January 1, 1916, the same date as the new prohibition law, and it is specified that this is not to be construed as an amendment to the "dry" law or to any other statute, but is to be considered paramount to them all. It is unofficially stated that the law would knock out the "dry" bill recently adopted and annul the local option law.

Of course the bill is nothing but an ingenious attempt to get the prohibition issue before the people at another election. Before that election the breweries would undoubtedly cut loose—on the surface at least—from their tainting affiliation with the saloons, in the hope of getting a different verdict from the people.

But Washington has once voted "dry" and it is only common-sense and justice that the "dry" law be put into effect and given a fair trial. That is all the prohibitionists want.

GROUND BETWEEN THE MILLSTONES.

LONDON, England, Jan. 7.—American Commissioner Hoover, returning from a tour of inspection of the continent, reports that 10,000 French peasants are starving, and many are dying, in the valley of the Meuse in France, near the Belgian border. Such food as they receive, he says, is being sent from the limited stores available for the relief of the destitute Belgians. Mr. Hoover says that the world must continue Belgian relief work or else face the spectacle of an entire nation perishing.—Associated Press despatch.

Before such an appalling need the already-opened purses of America will be opened again.

The horror and the uselessness of such a situation as that in Belgium and France almost stun the reader. Yet "something must be done." While the cruel war goes on, America must be ready to stand by the nation and the people ground between the upper and nether millstones.

In view of such terrific injustice as is being wrought upon the innocent and hapless non-combatants of Europe by this war, any sentiment of pride in the achievements of military powers strikes the American observer as being considerably out of place.

CENSORING THE CHEESE TOWN.

This about a British censor, as told in the New York Evening Post, is rich:

"One instance of the press censor's sagacity is too utterly absurd to be omitted. A special correspondent had reported in his message the arrival of British troops 'at the town of Brie, where the Brie cheeses come from.' It was one of the principles of the censor to delete every topographical reference to the movements of troops, lest the news should give an advantage to the enemy. But there was no standing order affecting the mention of dairy products. So the message was published in this form: 'British troops have arrived at the town of _____, where the Brie cheeses come from.'"

BRITISH VOLUNTEERING.

An unusually emphatic refutation of the reports that England is unable to get enough recruits has reached Honolulu. It is a remark in a private letter written here by Lieut-col. Leatham, of Lord Kitchener's staff. It refers to the volunteering of British residents of Hawaii for duty with the colors:

"With reference to the other applicants for army service, at the present time we have more men than we are at present able to arm, clothe and house."

It would appear from this that conscription is a long way off for Great Britain.

According to the chairman's statement at the civil service commission meeting last night, Policeman David Kaonohi should be dismissed but ought to be retained. Under these circumstances, the officer who was suspended for insubordination by the sheriff is reinstated by the commission.

President Wilson is even braver than we thought. He has turned down the request of a delegation of Democratic women who wished his aid in securing a suffrage amendment.

The water-meter issue is being resurrected. Once it was a pretty dead corpse.

(The Star-Bulletin invites free and frank discussion in this column on all legitimate subjects of current interest. Communications are constantly received to which no signature is attached. This paper will treat as confidential signatures to letters if the writers so desire, but cannot give space for anonymous communications.)

SHOULD THE UNITED STATES ACT?

Waiakae Mill, Waiakae, Hawaii, January 2, 1915.
Editor Honolulu Star-Bulletin.

Sir:—Would you kindly grant me space for the following:
In reading the publication, "The Case of Belgium in the Present War," an account of the violation of the neutrality of Belgium and of the laws of war on Belgian territory, published for the Belgian delegates to the United States, I find the commission was received by the President of the United States in Washington on September 19, 1914, when Mr. Henry Cartou de Wiart, in the name of the commission, made the address, from which I make this short extract: "Ever since her independence was first established Belgium has been declared neutral in perpetuity. This neutrality guaranteed by the Powers has recently been violated by one of them. Had we consented to abandon our neutrality for the benefit of one of the belligerents we would have betrayed our obligations toward the others. And it was the sense of our international obligations, as well as that of our dignity and honor that has driven us to resistance." The United States, as I understand it, is here an obligant, a guarantor-in-fact, and being so, does the following extract from the reply of President Wilson righteously represent the conscience of the citizens of this great Republic and execution of their verdict necessary to the instant righting of the wrong?

I now quote from our President's reply: "It would be unwise, it would be premature for a single government, however fortunately separated from the present struggle, it would even be inconsistent with the neutral position of any nation, which like this has no part in the contest, to form or express a final judgment."

"Single government!" Where was England?

"Neutral position!" An obligant, a guarantor-in-fact, "no part in the contest to form or express a final judgment!" A nation's conscience is always in session—today as tomorrow—and as, in the individual its duty, at least one of its main duties, is that of guide—instinct in season. The power of the conscience, the dividing of soul and body—well! If action be the welfare of the soul—the life of a people. True, "Judge not lest ye be judged" is the divine command. Why? Because conscience is lightened from within—limitations inapplicable in this prima facie case, the delinquent having surrendered all rebuttal evidence in the admission by Germany's chancellor of the responsibility and being worked on the Belgians. A great power—an obligant—a guarantor-in-fact—"no part in the contest!" What an opportunity to act looms before us! Let us, oh! country of my and my children's adoption! The shade of Carlyle, yes, the dismembered dead moves as a voice; as an "incarnate word." O! the millions living, dying a hell, for war is hell at its hottest. Oh! the pity of it! As a nation our opportunity is not forever removed from us. When a man is to rehabilitate himself in the joy of the right he acts and with the joy grieves, as admitting his weakness in his procrastination.

For the right, Mr. President, will you not make protest? Thereby anticipating the certain experience of like activities within and from out this free and enlightened people—the united "incarnate words"—to that which followed the passing of the shade—Robespierre and near conferees, "when great multitudes of men struck dumb heretofore and as it were saw one another, how multitudinous they were and began speaking and complaining." They are countable by the thousands and the millions, who have already suffered cruel wrong through this our country's weakness. It is not seemingly sufficient that magazines, which but reach a limited number of readers, have given expression of the grievous wrong done the people of the United States. The voice of the masses is to be heard from; they who are the martyrs, who blindly, grandly obey and die for and in accord with the light, which is in them. Yes, there is a time coming, being sung of in these our day, when all men, as equal, will receive from the administrators of a united world the best externals with the best, which will be in all. Man is drawing nearer and nearer to the fact that "Righteousness exalteth a Nation." Let us, then save to this nation the great, the

glorious destiny awaiting and believed in by her people, limiting our love—our trust in the almighty dollar.

In aught I have written I would express naught other than the highest respect for the office of President, nor aught but that of sincere sympathy for its representative in these acute times, pregnant with vital changes to the external activities and inwardly agitating the entire human race. The higher of these thoughts is reconciling the affairs of our day with a God of love, and I can but liken the growth of this "tree of life" as a stage to the healing of the nations. Seeing the ordinary tree's life we have first the seed and so on until each stage meets us in development, hope is developed and in the full fruition faith beholds herself as wisdom. In the development of "the tree of life" we must remember that time is to the Supreme one endless day in keeping with which is the growth. Patience, believe, believe.

ALEX. COCKBURN.

LITTLE INTERVIEWS.

—J. S. McCANDLESS: The poor people of Honolulu have a right to be heard on this proposal for an amusement pier. They outnumber the rich ones.

—"HEINIE" HEYDENREICH: I heard a report this morning that the British war-vessels Ajax and Lion had been sunk in the Straits of Dover, but no confirmation of it has come that I know of.

—TREASURER CONKLING: I have a youngster in my office who is doing so well that I may keep him after the last day of January when, by the supervisors' orders, all city employees' terms of office end.

—W. R. FARRINGTON: Some of the sedate "businessmen" laugh at the Ad Club as a noisy aggregation. I am mighty glad to see them smile. It is the first time some of them have given an indication of good nature in upwards of 40 years.

—LIEUT. P. M. SMCOT, N. G. H.: The Service Basketball League is sure to prove generally popular. I look to see the Saturday evening and Sunday afternoon games particularly well attended. Commencing next week games are scheduled for every Saturday evening.

—MAJ. GEN. CARTER: One of the numerous golf authorities has written that the fascination of the game lies in striving to repeat the perfect shots that even the dufer makes at times. I think that hits the nail squarely on the head.

—E. M. CHEATHAM of Kanai: Work on a homestead from 7 in the morning to 5 at night or from 5 in the morning to 7 at night will give any man the sunburn, outdoor look that my Honolulu friends tell me I have brought here on my visit. The Kapa homesteads are going to pull through into a fine proposition, I believe.

—WALTER COOMBS: The Republican county committee will have a meeting on Friday evening, but I see no reason for this talk of a fight that appears. I hope the committee will have meetings regularly. There are plenty of things to talk over besides patronage and jobs. We have been asked to suggest changes in the direct primary law and will probably name a committee on this subject.

Personal Mention

B. F. VICKERS will depart for the island of Kanai in the steamer Like-like this evening.

A. E. ARLEDGE is numbered with the list of passengers booked for the mainland in the steamer Matsonia.

JUDGE F. M. HATCH is expecting to depart for the mainland on a business mission in the Matsonia steamer Matsonia.

R. I. BENTLEY, prominently identified with the California Fruit Canners' Association, is expecting to leave for the coast in the Matsonia.

F. E. THOMPSON, going to attend to legal matters on the island of Kanai, is numbered among the passengers.

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booked in the steamer Like-like.

J. B. CASTLE is booked for the island of Hawaii in the Inter-Island steamer Mauna Kea, scheduled to depart on next Saturday afternoon.

R. J. ROWE, formerly of Honolulu, writes to his parents from France of war conditions. He is an engineer on the American-Hawaiian steamer Mis-sourian.

T. M. CHURCH, a member of the board of harbor commissioners, will leave for Kahului, Maui, in the steamer Claudine tomorrow afternoon on a business trip.

MR. and MRS. ALBERT P. TAYLOR are expected to arrive from San Francisco next Monday. Mr. Taylor has been representing the Promotion Committee and the Hawaii fair commission in the coast city.

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